March meeting, Thursday, March 4, 2010, 6pm at the Woodcraft Store on Coburg Road, Eugene, OR

Meeting notes from 2/4/2010
by Official Reporter Michael Kemp

Well, I arrived 10 minutes late to the meeting (apologies) and Wayne Goddard was already deep into describing The Great Bamboo Handle With A Copper Ferrule Contest where he's supplied bamboo handle blanks and over the last couple of meetings has given lots of tips on construction. Judging will be at the April meeting. Yes that will be on April Fools' Day - but I don't think he's pulling our leg. The prize will be a box of materials (about $100.00 worth) and a trophy. Just to whet the appetite he brought a couple of examples - including this magnificent Bowie:

Bruce Fried brought a massive Indonesian barong with a riveted bamboo sheath and a little twist-lock folder of French origin. Jeff Crowner explained that barong refers to a flame-shape - harking back to depictions of flames of angel wings in the Garden of Eden. I didn't get a photo of the twist-lock folder - but in this shot of the front table you can see the bamboo sheath - and the middle blade is the barong.

Wayne relayed a good story of brotherly pecking order - ask him about Sardar's knife some time!

Lynn Moore shared some research he's been doing for getting different patinas on a blade. The folks at the following web address not only have descriptions of how to achieve dozens of patinas, but also sell the chemicals. This is definitely going into my bookmarks!
http://sciencecompany.com/patinas/patinaformulas.htm Thanks Lynn!!

Marty Brandt brought a whole trove of blades. One was a rather primitive Filipino blade made from 1800's wagon train wheel (bottom blade in the above photo) with a sheet steel ferrule with a lap joint welded with copper. Another was a Pinuti sword and its handsome wooden scabbard.

I also got a photo of the Damascus blade that had been sent to Bali for the carved Naga handle:

I think it was at that point that I changed the subject from the sublime to the mundane and shared my notes on a home-made "conversion kit" that allows me to turn my log splitter into a forging press. Here's the link to my notes on-line in case you are curious: http://elementalforge.com/LogSplitterConversionKit201001.pdf

Craig Morgan shared a number of knives - unfortunately I didn't get photos of most of them. There was a very nice 154CM folder with stag handles - very smooth action. There was a beautiful blade that his daughter Hanna (sp?) had made years earlier - sold at a show - and was gifted
back to her. Great story. Another very pretty knife was out of cable Damascus. And the one I got a photo of was this gigantic Bowie: Actually it's something you can lay out on your pinkie finger like it was on a table! It's a wonderful miniature - but there seemed to be some competition between Craig's daughter and the intended buyer which means that another one is in production.

Jeff Crowner brought a bamboo/copper hafted knife made from some O-7 that Wayne had given away at an earlier meeting... there was a 5160 camp knife with tan Terro Tuf from Cascade Industrial Products (CIP) with a really nice blackened version of the mustard finish. And I did get a photo of his latest Kukri inspired survival blade - made from D2 and also sporting black Terro Tuf handles, see http://www.cipcomposites.com/

Lynn got back up and shared a two-bladed folder that he's working on - a beauty! And then the party kind of broke up - everybody milling around talking and swapping ideas.

Bill and I swapped stories about our counter-top removal projects and he showed me a chisel-knife tool that he whipped up for the occasion.

And as things wound down I headed out into the night - determined not to be late to the next meeting!

Keep Well; Michael Kemp

News just in from Michael
I've put up a VERY BASIC page for the 5160 Club - I figure at the next meeting I'll pass around a pad so people can write their web site down if they want a link to it on this page - and see if there are any other SIMPLE things to add (like links to selected suppliers?) http://elementalforge.com/5160Club/

Wayne’s Ramblings
Up coming events to remember. Bamboo handle with copper ferrule contest deadline and judging is at the April 1 meeting. OKCA Show April 17-18. Meeting dates for the rest of the year in case you want to mark your calendar. May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7, November 4, and December 2. I just learned of an October knife show being planned in Boise. If it comes off we plan on attending. Now that BLADE West is not happening it would be nice to have a show to attend in the fall.

Hope to see ya at the meeting.

WG